



Federal Communications Commission
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Washington, D.C. 20554

CGB

July 27, 2012

Robert Delaware
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 1334
P.O. Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205-5819

FOIA No. 2012-378

Dear Mr. Delaware:

This letter responds to your recent Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request received by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) and assigned to the Consumer & Governmental Affairs (CGB) and Enforcement (EB) bureaus by the Commission's FOIA Office on June 28, 2012. Your request seeks copies of all complaints received by the FCC regarding the television program "Sons of Anarchy."

A search of the databases containing informal complaints was conducted by our staff. According to the Commission's Records Control Schedule for Informal Complaints ("Records Control Schedule"), the Commission is not required to maintain informal complaints and related correspondence for more than three years after the case is closed. *See NI-173-07-1, FCC Disposition Authority*. Therefore, all complaint records prior to January 1, 2008, have been purged pursuant to the Records Control Schedule. Arthur Scrutchins of my staff identified eight complaints responsive to your request, which are enclosed. The Enforcement and Media Bureaus found no documents responsive to your request.

Mr. Scrutchins redacted all personal identifying information relating to the individuals who submitted or are named in the enclosed complaints or inquiries based on Exemption 6 of FOIA, which permits agencies not to disclose files that would clearly invade personal privacy.¹ Mr. Scrutchins also redacted some FCC employee names based on Exemption 2 of FOIA, which permits agencies not to disclose internal personnel rules and practices.²

The FCC receives many complaints and comments that do not involve violations of the Communications Act or any FCC rule or order. Thus, a complaint or comment does not

¹ 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6); *see also* 47 C.F.R. § 0.457(f).

² 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(2); *see also* 47 C.F.R. § 0.457(b).

necessarily indicate any wrongdoing by any individuals or entities named in the complaint or comment.

FOIA and FCC rules require the FCC to charge requesters for time spent searching for and reviewing responsive documents, and for copying them.³ Based on your classification as a representative of the news media, you are responsible only for the payment of duplication costs beyond the first 100 pages. Because preparing the response to your request falls within these limits, there is no charge for processing your request.

If you think this response denies your FOIA request, you may file an application for review of this decision with the FCC's Office of the General Counsel within 30 days.⁴ Both the application and envelope containing it must be marked "Review of Freedom of Information Action" and the application should refer to FOIA Control No. 2012-378.

Sincerely,



Nancy Stevenson
Deputy Chief
Consumer Policy Division
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau

Enclosures

³ 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(4)(A)(i); 47 C.F.R. § 0.470.

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 0.461(j).

Case Information

Control ID : CIMS00003266292	IC Number : 11-WB14854863	Submission Method : Web	Status : Closed
Level One : Broadcast	Level Two : Programming Issues	Level Three : Profane	Assigned Code Acronym : PROF
Owner Rep Number : TSR42	Creator : cgb.475	Problem Submitted Time : 11/3/2011 1:03:03AM	Date Closed : 11/8/2011

Contact Information

Consumer Personal Information Omitted

City/State/ZipCode : PORT HURON MI 48060

Indecency

Date of Program : 11/01/2011	Call Sign/Channel/Frequency : 64
Time of Program : 10:00 pm	City/State of Program : port huron, mi
Network : all	Program Type : Unknown
Name of Program/DJ/Personality/Song/Film : sons of anarchy	

Problem Description

i am appauled and upset about yous using gods name in vain on tv. more people would watch if would stop using god n jesus name. its a obanation 2 our father in heaven n our jesus christ. we need 2 stop such langage on tv. gays are obination n you show them on tv. there are children watching more these days what is wrong with yous/.you are comitting a crime against god n jesus .if you cant sell your movie with out using god n jesus that is sick . choose another cuss word. you are making money off cussing n damning our father n jesus. people voted out god n jesus in schools. i didnt. i love god njesus for ever amen.

Case Information

Control ID : CIMS00003212092	IC Number : 11-WB14816964	Submission Method : Web	Status : Closed
Level One : Broadcast	Level Two : Programming Issues	Level Three : Indecent	Assigned Code Acronym : INDE
Owner Rep Number : TSR29	Creator : cgb.475	Problem Submitted Time : 9/7/2011 1:54:45PM	Date Closed : 9/8/2011

Contact Information

Consumer Personal Information Omitted

City/State/ZipCode : FOLLY BEACH SC 29439

Indecency

Date of Program : 09/06/2011	Call Sign/Channel/Frequency : FX
Time of Program : 10:00 PM	City/State of Program : Charleston, SC
Network : FX	Program Type : TV
Name of Program/DJ/Personality/Song/Film : Sons of Anarchy	

Problem Description

This program in general has naked women, pornstars, and the butts of women "grinding" on men suggesting they'r having or about to have sex. It also uses many words that degrade women such a bitch, slut, and skank. There is other cursing throughout the show. I can't believe TV shows are allowed to use such words and show this kind of stuff these days. It's just aggravating. If I wanted to or my boyfriend to see this kind of stuff there are places to go for that. Not on TV. Just because it comes on later doesn't people children don't see this. Why are we subjecting the children to this kind of activity? Two and a Half Men should also be looked at... why is it ok for Charlie to always be in bed with a woman who is mostly just in lingerie or bra/underwear. This is unacceptable and the family values should go back to the way they used to be a long time ago regarding sex, nudity, an profanity on TV.

Case Information

Control ID : CIMS00002864709	IC Number : 10-WB14637428	Submission Method : Web	Status : Closed
Level One : Broadcast	Level Two : Programming Issues	Level Three : Violence	Assigned Code Acronym : VIOL
Owner Rep Number : TSR29	Creator : cgb.475	Problem Submitted Time : 11/16/2010 11:11:57PM	Date Closed : 11/19/2010

Contact Information

Consumer Personal Information Omitted

City / State / Zip : NEW YORK NY 10007

Indecency

Date of Program : 11/16/2010	Call Sign/Channel/Frequency : Cable
Time of Program : 10.00 PM	City/State of Program : New York
Network : FX	Program Type : Cable
Name of Program/DJ/Personality/Song/Film : Sons of Anarchy	

Case Referred

Case Referral Agency :	FCC/Enforcement Bureau
Referral Division/Dept. :	IHD - Investigation & Hearings
Referral Date :	11/19/2010
EB/IHD Exported Case :	11/22/2010

Problem Description

During tonight's episode of Sons of Anarchy I observed what can only be described as a clear cut case of child abuse. During the first half of the program one of the lead characters (Gemma) was shown pointing a firearm at point blank range into an infant child's face while shouting threats to kill it (the term used was "I will cut this child in half," or similar). The child was visibly terrified, crying and screaming. Obviously actors in a television show know that they *are* acting a baby doesn't have the benefit of that perspective. The fear on this child's face was real. If I terrified a child by pointing a gun (fake or real) at it, I would be arrested. There is no reason why the same legal standard should not apply in this situation. Regardless of legality this scene was clearly obscene.

Case Information

Control ID : CIMS00002793411	IC Number : 10-WB14601490	Submission Method : Web	Status : Closed
Level One : Broadcast	Level Two : Programming Issues	Level Three : Indecent	Assigned Code Acronym : INDE
Owner Rep Number : TSR29	Creator : cgb.475	Problem Submitted Time : 9/21/2010 11:21:12PM	Date Closed : 9/22/2010

Contact Information

Consumer Personal Information Omitted

City / State / Zip : WEST FARGO ND 58078

Indecency

Date of Program : 09/21/2010	Call Sign/Channel/Frequency : FXHD - 421
Time of Program : 9:00 PM	City/State of Program : West Fargo, ND
Network : FX	Program Type : Unknown
Name of Program/DJ/Personality/Song/Film : Sons of Anarchy	

Case Referred

Case Referral Agency :	FCC/Enforcement Bureau
Referral Division/Dept. :	IHD - Investigation & Hearings
Referral Date :	9/22/2010
EB/IHD Exported Case :	9/27/2010

Problem Description

The program showed women's butts and in one case showed a woman squatting on the floor with her back to the camera, wearing clothing a stripper would wear, while facing a man that had his pants down. The depiction was clear. Need I say more. I am appalled at this type of programming. I just happened to run across this and am extremely offended and shocked that we would allow programming like this on TV. What has happened to our standards and morals? And we wonder why our young people are turning out the way they are ... this is what they have as an influence!

Case Information

Control ID : CIMS00002792392	IC Number : 10-WB14600787	Submission Method : Web	Status : Closed
Level One : Broadcast	Level Two : Programming Issues	Level Three : Indecent	Assigned Code Acronym : INDE
Owner Rep Number : PCC30	Creator : cgb.475	Problem Submitted Time : 9/20/2010 9:00:55PM	Date Closed : 9/30/2010

Contact Information

Consumer Personal Information Omitted

City / State / Zip : HOLLY SPRINGS NC 27540

Indecency

Date of Program : 09/19/2010	Call Sign/Channel/Frequency : 136
Time of Program : 10:35 pm	City/State of Program : Raleigh, North Carolina
Network : F/X	Program Type : TV
Name of Program/DJ/Personality/Song/Film : Sons of Anarchy	

Problem Description

During a scene in which a father with dementia hears moaning from a bedroom, he opens the door and sees a naked man kneeling on the bedroom floor while furiously slapping his front against the genitalia of a female partner who is propped upon a bed. The man with dementia thinks he is assaulting his wife and gets a gun and shoots the naked man. This graphic, lewd, obscene, and pornographic scene was not necessary to the plot could have been depicted just as easily in a less crude manner and has no place on television on ANY NETWORK as it is part of a basic cable channel and not an enhanced pay-per-view channel. The "nudity" warning at the beginning of the drama would not lead anyone to think that graphic fornication is about to be viewed. F?X needs to desist from this type of pornography in the future and also should apologize to its viewers for its blatant pornographic depiction and not with an "IF WE OFFENDED ANYONE" but with "WE DID AN OFFENSIVE PROGRAMMING SCENE WHICH WAS UNNECESSARY TO THE PLOT OF THE SHOW".

Case Information

Control ID : CIMS00002225859	IC Number : 09-WB14352611	Submission Method : Web	Status : Closed
Level One : Broadcast	Level Two : Programming Issues	Level Three : Indecent	Assigned Code Acronym : INDE
Owner Rep Number : PCC30	Creator : cgb.475	Problem Submitted Time : 9/28/2009 12:59:59PM	Date Closed : 11/10/2009

Contact Information

Consumer Personal Information Omitted

City / State / Zip : WESTFIELD MA 01085

Indecency

Date of Program : 09/22/2009	Call Sign/Channel/Frequency : 30
Time of Program : 10:00 PM	City/State of Program : Westfield, MA
Network : FX	Program Type : TV
Name of Program/DJ/Personality/Song/Film : Sons of Anarchy	

Case Referred

Case Referral Agency :	FCC/Enforcement Bureau
Referral Division/Dept. :	IHD - Investigation & Hearings
Referral Date :	11/10/2009
EB/IHD Exported Case :	12/28/2009

Problem Description

My wife and I saw the lead character in one scene was standing up receiving oral sex. You could not tell whether this was real or simulated. This was depicted so well and looked so real that you could not tell. There was another scene where there was another scene not even 5 seconds later clearly having intercourse. There was a bare bottom that was shown in this particular scene. Another scene, the motorcycle gang has taken over filming adult sex scenes. There is very little coverage for the women's breasts. There was a comment made by one of the actors in one of the scenes to his onscreen wife stating, "You are not going down to that cum factory." We feel this looks like pornography on the television.

Case Information

Control ID : CIMS00002221207	IC Number : 09-WB14347456	Submission Method : Web	Status : Closed
Level One : Broadcast	Level Two : Programming Issues	Level Three : Indecent	Assigned Code Acronym : INDE
Owner Rep Number : PCC30	Creator : cgb.475	Problem Submitted Time : 9/23/2009 1:18:54PM	Date Closed : 10/1/2009

Contact Information

Consumer Personal Information Omitted

City / State / Zip : GRAND FORKS ND 58201

Indecency

Date of Program : 09/22/2009	Call Sign/Channel/Frequency : 248 FOXHD on DTV
Time of Program : 9:00 PM	City/State of Program : Grand Forks, North Dakota
Network : Fox	Program Type : TV
Name of Program/DJ/Personality/Song/Film : Sons Of Anarchy	

Case Referred

Case Referral Agency :	FCC/Enforcement Bureau
Referral Division/Dept. :	IHD - Investigation & Hearings
Referral Date :	10/1/2009
EB/IHD Exported Case :	10/8/2009

Problem Description

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for letting Fox run this show and show my son what oral/regular sex is. In accordance with your fact sheet I submit the following request: In last nights show of Sons of Anarchy, Sam Crow was at a party that the club sponsored. In one scene Sam is seen standing while the camera pans down and shows a woman's head at the same level of his groin giving him oral sex. later in the same show, the character of his son is seen having sexual intercourse with his girlfriend in the restroom at that very same party. I understand what mature is but that is not mature content. That is pornography pure and simple! Obscene, Indecent and Profane So, I'm asking you to address this matter and put a boot up the ass of Fox for their disgusting show of disrespect for the industry and those who watch. Another way to request your support is to say it this way. How would you like to be sitting with your 17 yr. old and have to explain what is happening to your child? I ask your support in this matter and look forward to your earliest response. Should I receive a negative response from your office I'll drive this through my senators in an attempt to get a law drafted to stopped the progression of pornography on the Television industry. Thank you in advance for your assistance.....

Case Information

Control ID : CIMS00002207255	IC Number : 09-WB14333576	Submission Method : Web	Status : Closed
Level One : Unknown Media Types	Level Two : Programming Issues	Level Three : Indecent	Assigned Code Acronym : INDE
Owner Rep Number : PCC66	Creator : cgb.475	Problem Submitted Time : 9/9/2009 5:14:18PM	Date Closed : 9/10/2009

Contact Information

Consumer Personal Information Omitted

City / State / Zip : MEMPHIS TN 38120

Indecency

Date of Program : 09/08/2009	Call Sign/Channel/Frequency : 47
Time of Program : 08:30 PM	City/State of Program : Memphis TN
Network : FX	Program Type : Cable/Satellite
Name of Program/DJ/Personality/Song/Film : Son of anarchy	

Case Referred

Case Referral Agency :	FCC/Enforcement Bureau
Referral Division/Dept. :	IHD - Investigation & Hearings
Referral Date :	9/10/2009
EB/IHD Exported Case :	9/23/2009

Problem Description

This is program is the most sadistic program on TV. It shows women being hung in handcuffs in a cage and graphic killings. It is all about the hatred and sadism of a bunch of bikers and there is even a dark color to everything. I turned if off but before I did I saw a group of bikers getting ready to do who knows what to an average guy in a suit. It is frightening and destructive to our society. I hate to think that people are watching this and we walk among them.